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(Washington, DC) □□ Today, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) joined a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives today in voting for a bill that will launch a new era of American service and volunteerism. The Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act, H.R. 1388, answers President Barack Obama's call for Americans of all generations to help get the country through the economic crisis by serving and volunteering in their communities.

The House passed the legislation, the GIVE Act by a vote of 321 to 105. The Senate is also considering similar legislation.

"Less than two months ago, President Obama called for all Americans to dedicate themselves to serve in their communities during this economic crisis," Congressman Carnahan said

□ **"Americans have always responded in times of crisis and this bill helps provide them with the tools to help rebuild their communities. I am proud to stand with President Obama in providing critical opportunities for Americans to give back."**

The GIVE Act would more than triple the number of volunteers, from the current 75,000 to 250,000, and increase the education reward they receive to \$5,350 for next year, the same as the maximum Pell Grant scholarship award.

In addition to creating 175,000 additional service opportunities the bill would establish four new service corps including the Clean Energy Corps to encourage energy efficiency and conservation measures, Education Corps to help increase student engagement, achievement and graduation, a Healthy Futures Corps to improve health care access, and a Veterans Service Corps to enhance services for veterans.

Earlier this week, Congressman Carnahan joined more than 100 YouthBuild AmeriCorps students and graduates in Washington, DC from across the country including two from St. Louis to mark YouthBuild's 30th anniversary and to highlight the importance of service. In YouthBuild programs nationwide, low-income youth ages 16-24 work toward their GEDs or high school diplomas while learning job skills by building affordable housing for homeless and people in need.

"The benefit of giving Americans, from all walks of life, the opportunity to give back to their communities is exponential," Carnahan said. **"Now is the time for Americans to come together and help one another get out of these trying economic times."**

The legislation would create a new national Call to Service campaign to encourage all

Americans to get involved in service and would encourage Americans to observe September 11th a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

It also would provide new incentives for middle and high school students to volunteer in their communities including a Summer of Service program to engage students in service and allows them to earn a \$500 education award to be used for college costs.